

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed February 22, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-25 were originally presented for examination. Claims 1-15 were rejected and claims 16-25 were withdrawn from consideration in the Teleconference of February 8, 2005. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1 and 6 have been amended and claim 8 is cancelled. Support for the amendments is found in the original filed specification on page 4, paragraph 15, and FIGS. 1A, 2A, 3A, and 3C, as well as elsewhere throughout the specification, figures and claims. No claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-7, and 9-15 will be pending in this application. Of these fourteen (14) claims, two (2) claims (claims 1 and 6) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 listing additional references identified by the Examiner.
3. Applicant acknowledges receipt of the form PTO-1449 filed by Applicants on March 25, 2004, which has been initialed by the Examiner indicating consideration of the references cited therein.

Drawings

4. Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner has accepted the drawings originally filed as formal drawings.

Election/Restrictions

5. This application was restricted to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121: Group I including claims 1-15, drawn to Figs. 1-3, (classified in class 361, subclass 683), Group II including claims 16-24, drawn to Figs. 1-3 (classified in class 29, subclass 832), and Group III including claim 25 drawn to Figs. 1-3 (classified in class 29, subclass 739). Applicant affirms that on February 8, 2005, Applicant elected with traverse to

prosecute the invention of Group I (claims 1-15). In response the Examiner cancelled claims 16-25 without prejudice or disclaimer by the foregoing Office Action. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the withdrawn claims in a continuation/divisional application.

Claim Rejections

6. Independent claims 1 and 6 and dependent claims 2-5, 9-11 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,564,930 to Yu (hereinafter, "Yu"). Dependent claims 8 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

7. Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia* "a chassis for an electronic device comprising... a plurality of exterior walls joined to each other to form a partially-assembled chassis, wherein ***at least one exterior wall is entirely vacated***; and a plurality of interchangeable access panels each adapted to be removably attached to the partially-assembled chassis so as to occupy ***at least a portion of the exterior wall vacancy...***" (*See*, Applicant's claim 1 above; emphasis added).

8. Yu teaches inserting one of two access panels 50, 90 into a window 70. Yu's window 70 is a small region of an existing wall 22. In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention in which the "at least one exterior wall is entirely vacated," Furthermore, the access panels 50, 90 of Yu occupy the entire window 70 of Yu. This is in contrast to Applicant's claimed invention in which the claimed interchangeable access panels occupy "at least a portion of the exterior wall vacancy." For at least this reason Applicant respectfully asserts that Yu does not anticipate Applicant's invention as recited in amended claim 1.

9. Nor does Yu suggest Applicant's invention. With reference to dependent claim 8, the Examiner contends that it would be obvious to extend the vacant space of Yu's window (70) to comprise the entire back wall of the computer case 12. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As admitted by the Examiner, Yu fails to show power supply and ventilation apertures in the interchangeable access panels. (*See*, Office Action, pgs. 6-7.) This is

because Yu is concerned with the fact that some manufacturers have recently altered the conventional mother board to include integrated chip sets which require different configurations of serial and parallel interfaces. Such new mother boards require a corresponding change in the location and orientation of the access slots in the rear panel of the computer case. (*See*, Yu, col. 1, lns. 43-61.) Yu's access panels 50, 90 provide apertures to accommodate such different access panel configurations for conventional IBM style mother board (panel 50) and a conventional Western Digital mother board (panel 90); they are not concerned with any other component which has an interface on the rear wall 22 because such other components do not change from one computer case to the next. This is illustrated in the example described in Yu in which rear panel 22 of computer case 12 has permanent apertures for a power cable 18, an on/off switch 20, a cooling fan 24, keyboard 16 plug 28, etc., while Yu states the interchangeable panels permit the designer to incorporate any of a plurality of I/O ports. (*See*, Yu, col. 3, lns. 8-41; col. 5, lns. 35-39.)

10. Claim 6, as amended, recites "A plurality of interchangeable access panels, wherein each access panel is adapted to be removably attached to a partially-assembled chassis to occupy at least a portion of an entirely vacant exterior wall, and wherein each access panel comprises a configuration of at least one aperture each constructed and arranged to provide operational access to components mounted in the chassis." For at least the reasons noted above with reference to claim 1, Applicant asserts that Yu neither describes, teaches or suggests Applicant's invention as recited in amended claim 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

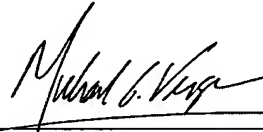
Dependent Claims

11. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

12. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Verga", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael G. Verga
Reg. No. 39,410

May 17, 2005